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# COVER FEATURE

## Brazil: Colossus of the Sun

By

United States Military Liaison Office Team

[Editor's Note. The following report continues our series of feature articles on countries where the United States manages significant security assistance programs. Overall U.S. relations with Brazil are substantial: the U.S. is Brazil's single most important export market, as well as its largest single supplier of imports, its largest source of bank financing, and its largest foreign investor. The close World War II cooperation between the Brazilian Expeditionary Force and the U.S. Army in Italy, as illustrated below, was the beginning of a relationship that continues today through the security assistance and related activities of the U.S. Military Liaison Office in Brazil.]

### INTRODUCTION—THE COUNTRY

A popular adage states: ask almost anyone from the U.S. about Brazil and he or she might say: "It's about the size of Germany, the capital is Rio de Janeiro, and they speak Spanish." Many are surprised to learn that Brazil is bigger than the contiguous United States, that Brasilia became the capital in 1960, that Portuguese, rather than Spanish, is the official language, and that the Portuguese spelling of this country is "Brasil." However, sunny Rio was the capital from 1822 to 1960 and was actually the seat of the Portuguese throne in the early 19th century during the Napoleonic wars.

A land of vast ethnic and regional diversity, the Federal Republic of Brazil is the world's fifth largest country, accounting for about half of the area and population of South America. The Amazon, the world's largest river in volume, flows across the northern part of the country. A perspective of the river's immense size can be gained by noting that an island in the middle of the Amazon's mouth is larger than Switzerland. Additionally, the Amazon and its tributaries hold one-fifth of the planet's fresh water supply. Most residents of the Colossus of the Sun, as Brazil has come to be known, enjoy tropical weather, maritime breezes, and exciting beaches. Over 90 percent of Brazil's population is concentrated along 4,000 plus miles of coastline. While the nationality is Brazilian, used as both a noun and an adjective, most of the population is of Portuguese or African descent. This nation is also home to the largest population of Japanese outside of their home islands, and also has significant numbers of German, Italian, Native South Americans (principally Tupi and Guarani linguistic origin), Jewish, and Arabic ethnic groups. Brazil's 155 million diverse inhabitants make up approximately one-half of South America's population.

South America's largest nation has the ninth largest economy in the world in spite of troubling inflation and a sizable national debt. It is rich in natural resources and has an aggressive industrial base. Brazil is well known for its shipping, motor vehicle, and aircraft industries. In fact, U.S. airlines buy more commuter propeller aircraft from EMBRAER, Brazil's parastatal aircraft company, than any other source. In the U.S. this aircraft is known as the "Brasilia." Furthermore, Brazil is a world leader in such areas as gem mining and coffee bean production. As U.S. consumers, the dress shoes your family wears, your morning orange juice, and other items might well have had their origins in this former Portuguese colony.

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Brazil's government is structured as a federal republic, similar to that of the U.S., with its capital Brasilia in a Federal District, three governmental branches (Executive, Legislative, and Judicial), twenty-six states, and a constitutional foundation. The president serves a single five-year term, the 81 senators an eight-year term, and the over 500 members of the Chamber of Deputies a four-year term, and all are popularly elected. In September 1992 President Fernando Collor was impeached for corruption, and he resigned on December 22, 1992 as his trial was beginning. Vice-President Itamar Franco then assumed the presidency in an orderly transition of power. All elements of Brazilian society, including the armed forces, supported the resolution of this difficult situation by adherence to constitutional norms. The next presidential election is scheduled for late 1994.

## **THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY**

South America's largest military is characterized by a civilian controlled voluntary force that is led and trained by a highly professional corps of officers. In contrast to the U.S., Brazil does not have a Secretary or Ministry of Defense equivalent, but has established an armed forces staff. The Armed Forces Staff and each service is headed by a four-star flag rank officer with the title of minister. Each of the four military ministers report directly to the president of the republic. Immediately under the minister is a four-star chief of staff who is responsible for execution of the basic missions found in most western militaries. The army is the largest force with a strength of approximately 195,000, including almost 17,000 officers. The air force, which became a separate service in 1941, has just under 50,000 men and women, of which about 11 percent are officers. Brazil's navy has 50,000 sailors and 5,000 officers. Naval forces also include 15,000 marines, of which 650 are officers. Various subordinate military headquarters are located throughout the country; however, the headquarters for all three services and for the armed forces staff, lie within Brasilia in an impressive array of buildings and structures. The Brazilian military shares U.S. interest in professional military education and has established a full spectrum of schools, language laboratories, and courses for specialized training. In fact, the Brazilian Army may well have the premier jungle warfare school in the world.

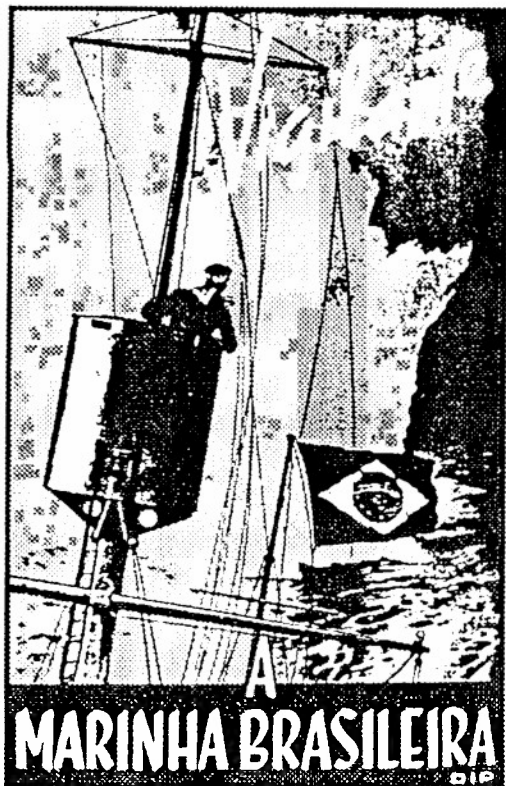
The military enjoys a productive relationship with Brazil's national arms industry which produces world class tanks, armored personnel carriers, and a variety of armaments. Brazilian industry produces aircraft, small boats, corvettes, frigates, and diesel submarines. The previously mentioned EMBRAER manufactures the highly regarded basic trainer, the TUCANO and the new Super TUCANO; a light, twin turboprop transport, the Bandeirante; and the Air Force's newest fighter, the AMX (or A-1 as it is called in Brazil), produced jointly with Aeritalia and Aeromacchi of Italy. Challenges for the military as a whole include pay, force modernization, and mission refinement—all in the face of ever increasing competition for budgetary funds.

## **THE BRAZILIAN PARTICIPATION IN WWII**

Brazilians are justly proud of the role of their military forces during WWII, as summarized herein. On 14 February 1942, a German U-boat sunk the Brazilian freighter "Cabedello," causing outrage in Brazil. In the next weeks, four more Brazilian vessels were destroyed and an additional four in May. From 15 to 19 Aug, a German Wolf Pack sunk six more of Brazil's vessels, one of which was the "Baependi" with a loss of 270 men, including many who were part of the First Mounted Artillery Division. The Germans sunk another ship carrying hundreds of civilian passengers enroute to a national religious congress, including many women and children. As a result, Getulio Vargas, who had served as Brazil's president since 1930, declared war on the Axis forces on 22 August 1942.

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## Brazilian Navy Billboard—WW II



Brazilian naval operations in the South Atlantic started almost immediately, as did consultations between Presidents Vargas and Franklin D. Roosevelt on future operations. The Brazilian Navy made significant contributions to the control of sea lanes between the North and South American continents, countering the heavy losses inflicted by the lethal U-boats. Using ports in northeastern Brazil (Recife, Salvador, Natal, and Belem), the Brazilian Navy patrolled the Atlantic salient formed between the coasts of Senegal and Brazil. Another important function was to prevent Germany's occupation of the French colonies on the Atlantic coast of Africa. The Northeast Naval Force was under the command of Admiral Soares Dutra during the mobilization phase and was then followed by Admiral Dodsworth Martins. Joint and combined operations included several important missions that involved aero/naval patrol, escort/protection of ship convoys, and preventive action to counter planned commando raids against Brazil by German and Italian forces. At a significant cost to the Brazilian Navy, several U-boats were damaged or sunk. Brazil's navy, which had also participated in WWI, is the only South American navy to have fought side by side with the U.S. in both world wars.

In November, 1943, Army General Joao B. Mascarenhas de Moraes was given command of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force—*Força Expedicionaria Brasileira* (FEB). After undergoing training, exercises, and a staff familiarization tour of North Africa and Southern Italy, the FEB sailed from Rio's harbor to Naples on 2 July 1944 with 5,081 men and officers. By August, the FEB was integrated into the Fifth Army under the command of U.S. Army Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark. The next month, over 10,000 more Brazilian troops reinforced the FEB in Italy. A young U.S. Army Captain named Vernon Walters was assigned as the Fifth Army liaison officer to the FEB, starting a long and most fruitful relationship that endures today. General Walters eventually became the Defense Attaché to Brazil. A point of tremendous pride to the FEB "smoking Cobras" was their combined attack with the U.S. 10th Mountain Division against the fortress Monte Castello which was held by a German infantry division and reinforced by the highly regarded 714th Jäger Division. Despite numerous assault attempts, forbidding winter weather, rugged mountainous conditions, and heavy losses, the FEB attained its objective in February 1945. Continuing its success, the FEB performed a remarkable feat the following month; on 29 and 30 April 1945, after a vicious battle, the German 148th Division with parts of the 90th Panzer Grenadier and the Italian Bersaglierie divisions, surrendered almost 900 officers including two generals and approximately 20,000 troops. The first enemy division in Italy to surrender did so to the famous Smoking Cobras. The Brazilian Army has constructed a war monument at the *Academia Militar das Agulhas Negras* to acknowledge the important role played by the young officers of the FEB.

Even before the Brazilian Air Force became part of the FEB, its Air Ministry was involved in establishing an air route between the U.S. and Africa via the all-important Northeast of Brazil. So critical was this supply route to the Allies that it became known as the "Corridor of Victory." Newly opened bases on the Northeast Coast supported the supply route as well as anti-submarine operations and pilot training. Starting in late 1941 and continuing until 1944 under the "Lend Lease" program, U.S. supplied aircraft were used in training the growing need for Brazilian pilots. Over 300 training aircraft, ferried 9,300 miles by Brazilians, were used to produce 558 combat pilots. Also used were P-36s, B-10s, and B-25s. Starting in 1942, aircraft from both countries used Brazilian bases in search of the elusive German U-boats. The Brazilian Air Force's greatest U-boat victory came on the last day of July 1943 against U-199. Using an A-28 "Hudson" and a PBY "Catalina," Brazilian pilots made a coordinated two-wave attack against U-199 as it attempted to enter Rio's harbor. The submarine, as verified by the surviving U-boat captain and other submarine crew members, sunk within 3 seconds after the second attack.

## O BRASIL ESTA PRESENTE NOS CAMPOS DA EUROPA!



The Brazilian Air Force campaign in Italy was led by Air Major Nero Moura, Commander of the 1st Fighter Unit that had joined the 350th U.S. Fighter Regiment. On 14 October 1944, the first combat mission of the first South American Air Force was flown in WWII flying P-47s. Under Major (later Lieutenant Colonel) Moura's leadership, the squadron flew 2,550 combat sorties with only five pilot fatalities. Although the Brazilian fighter unit flew 5 percent of the missions during the decisive battle between 6 and 22 April 1945, the U.S. Twelfth Air Force officially accredited the 1st Fighter Unit with 15 percent of the destroyed bridges, 28 percent of the destroyed vehicles, 36 percent of the damaged fuel depots, and 85 percent of the damaged munitions depots. This performance in Italy remains as an example for future generations of Brazilian pilots.

Total WWII casualties for all the Brazilian forces were 443 killed and 2,064 wounded. The performance of all three Brazilian services in WWII clearly demonstrates the strong partnership which endures today between the militaries of the U.S. and Brazil. The principal objective of the U.S. Military Liaison Office is to continue to strengthen this traditional relationship.

### THE MILITARY LIAISON OFFICE (MLO)

Throughout the years, the U.S. military liaison office has had different names, organizations and structures. In 1983, it was designated the MLO with a main office in Brasilia and a branch office in Rio de Janeiro, about 800 miles away. This somewhat unique situation springs from Rio hosting a significant portion of the Brazilian Navy and Brazilian Air Force logistics and training facilities.



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Also unique is the continuance of the MLO based on a joint *Aide-Mémoire* which is renegotiated every two years between the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the U.S. Embassy. Until September 1993, as a result of explicit provisions in this *Aide-Mémoire*, the MLO officers were not afforded the opportunity of direct access to the Brazilian military. Currently, however, the USA and USAF section chiefs have been granted permission for such access and they enjoy direct coordination with the designated Brazilian offices, and the entire MLO has direct liaison with their Headquarters, Armed Forces.



U.S. Embassy Brasilia, Brazil

The national capitol of Brazil was moved from Rio to a site in central Brazil named Brasilia and was officially inaugurated on April 21, 1960. The United States was the first country to establish an embassy in Brasilia. Today, the Chief MLO (a USAF colonel), the U.S. Army Section Chief, the U.S. Secretary/Translator, and the Administrative Assistant work at the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia. The Consulate, in Rio de Janeiro, houses the USN and USAF Section chiefs, the civilian Administrative/Budget Officer, and two support positions similar to those in the capital. Both locations also have Air Mobility Command Station Managers who, under MLO supervision, provide support for USAF Air Mobility Command aircraft flying in South America.

Unlike the vast majority of other countries, Brazil maintains three separate military commissions in Washington, DC, that initiate Foreign Military Sales cases for their air force, army, and navy. In cooperation with these commissions, the MLO currently oversees over \$350 million worth of FMS cases in addition to performing various other traditional roles of this type of organization. However, the primary MLO goals are to maintain and enhance military-to-military relations in conjunction with other country team members under the leadership of the U.S. ambassador to Brazil.

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## MLO PROGRAMS

Pursuing the primary goal of enhancing military-to-military relations manifests itself much the same as with sister U.S. MLO organizations in other Latin American countries. The MLO services FMS cases, assists in direct commercial sales, supervises training requests, coordinates visit/exchange programs and oversees a variety of special initiatives.



Senior U.S. and Brazilian Officers during visit to the Brazilian Logistics Institute

Brazil's FMS cases deal primarily with C-130 and F-5 aircraft, Knox and Garcia Class frigates, and logistics training courses. Conventional case management by service section chiefs and Brazilian military professionals is enhanced by a variety of both Security Assistance Reviews (SAR) and Technical Coordination Groups. The highly productive SARs occur each year and alternate between Rio and Washington, DC. Occasionally, the Brazilians will revalidate the applicability of their current FMS training courses by conducting on site surveys in the U.S. A corollary FMS function involves their purchase of Excess Defense Articles when availability and requirements match. A modest, grant-funded International Military Education Training (IMET) program [\$250 million in FY 1993 and \$100 million in FY 1994] is also available for Brazil. Courses emphasize professional/technical military education, and they directly support the shared goals of both countries. The MLO has been more active recently in visits and exchanges of general officers. Additionally, junior officers have participated in dozens of personnel exchanges under the IMET and Latin American Cooperation (LATAM COOP) programs. These initiatives are in addition to the traditional exchanges of military academy cadets and professional military education at such schools as the USAF Squadron Officers School or the U.S. Army War College. Both long term exchanges such as a Brazilian Army officer at the Vicksburg Waterways Engineering facility, and short term visits of a few weeks to various U.S. Army locations have proven to be valuable for both armies. In the same vein, subject matter expert exchanges (SMEEs) serve the same purposes and yield equally effective results. Although not numerous, Brazil has also hosted mobile



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training teams, most recently a USMC team. In spite of budget reductions, both countries' anticipation of the continuance of contacts between our militaries is high.

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**Lieutenant General Souza, BAF, and Major General Hallin, USAF  
during the Brazilian Air Force Logistic visit to Warner Robins Air Logistics Center**

The MLO is also involved in a variety of special interest programs. One is the hosting of the U.S. National Defense University's (NDU) CAPSTONE, a visit of recently appointed flag rank officers as part of their NDU curriculum. The CAPSTONE visit allows the participants to interact with both the embassy country team and the Brazilian military. Another program is the annual airlift competition, "RODEO," sponsored by Air Mobility Command to which the Brazilian Air Force sends observers. A third example of MLO's involvement encompasses coordination between the Brazilian Air Force Aeronautical Technology Center and the U.S. Air Force scientific community (HQ USAF/AQFI) for data exchange agreements. Currently, our two militaries share data on meteorology, fiber optics, non-corrosive inspection, and wind tunnel testing. Finally, the Brazilian military hosts ten of our USA, USN, USMC and USAF Personnel Exchange Program (PEP) officers. These officers are assigned to Brazilian military units and are fully integrated in their organizations.

MLO duties assigned under USSOUTHCOM include supervision of the Air Force Post Office (APO), commissary/mission support flights, U.S. customs, small claims, and local inspector general. Individual officers are also involved in numerous embassy activities such as housing and school boards.

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## SPECIAL DISAM VISIT TO BRAZIL

From 14 to 21 July 1993, two respected DISAM members, Dr. Larry A. Mortsof and Mr. W. David Carey, came to Brazil at the invitation of the Brazilian Air Force. The occasion was the inauguration of the only DISAM course in the world taught in a language other than English. This productive visit included consultations in Brasilia, Rio, and the home of the newly created DISAM course, Sao Paulo.

The Air Force's technically oriented schoolhouse (the Institute of Aeronautical Logistics) is located at Cumbica Air Base in Sao Paulo. The creation of this academic facility is accredited to the former air base commander, Colonel Wilson Romao, (a DISAM graduate). The July 1993 opening ceremony was hosted by the current commander, Colonel Rosa Lima. As part of the celebration, DISAM was invited to attend and provide guest lecturers for the Institute's Security Assistance Administration Course.



U.S. Army Section Chief participates  
in Brazilian Army Ceremony

For this program, the Aeronautical Logistic Institute, the training organization of the Brazilian Air Force, reproduced in Portuguese an entire DISAM course, including modern multi-media presentation, texts, and all the materials normally found in first rate academic environs. To share in the inauguration of the new course and in the spirit of bilateral friendship, Dr. Mortsof and Mr. Carey participated in teaching the opening day's lessons. Instruction covered a wide variety of subjects including security assistance legislation and policies, the transfer of technology, export controls, FMS case management, and the Brazilian Air Force FMS program.

One mission of the Aeronautical Logistic Institute is to make the most efficient use of manpower in the area of military logistics. To help carry out its mission, the institute has researched applicable materials and courses from allied air forces and business representatives in the diverse logistics field. Part of this research included courses offered by DISAM which helped inspire this new Portuguese language course.

The DISAM representatives were well received by their Brazilian hosts and the exchange proved to be productive and useful for both countries. Dr. Mortsof is the Deputy Commandant and *The DISAM Journal's* Executive Editor, and Mr. Carey is the Director of International Studies. The USMLO team thanks both of them for their participation and support during this highly successful visit to Brazil.

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## THE QUALITY OF LIFE

An American playwright once said that if he had to choose between Brazil and heaven, he would take Brazil. The Military Liaison Office personnel enjoy different lifestyles based on being stationed in Brasilia or in Rio de Janeiro. The people in Rio work out of large office buildings, live in apartments, and experience a city whose population is about that of Chile's and whose name is synonymous with excitement. Some military officers live in complexes that include private tennis courts with professional instructors, pools, and restaurants. Cariocas, as the residents of Rio are called, enjoy their passions: scenic beaches, notorious carnivals, and *futebol* (soccer). The popularity of soccer cannot be overstated: one of Rio's stadiums holds almost a quarter million people and is a popular diversion. Rio and almost all of the country has had an increased interest in volleyball after Brazil's impressive 1992 Olympic victory. Also available in Rio are some of the finest restaurants/nightclubs in Brazil as well as a wide variety of cultural opportunities found in major world cities.

Brasilia is much smaller than Rio and has a more moderate climate than the former capital city. The MLO is housed in a large, open embassy, and the officers live in spacious houses and enjoy a more pastoral lifestyle than Cariocas. The embassy has a variety of recreational facilities including access to a limited number of memberships in a local golf club. Brasilia boasts of a slower, quieter atmosphere conducive to raising families, with opportunities for sports, traveling, and the pursuit of equestrian skills. Due to the high fees for membership in exercise/health clubs, efforts are underway to seek funding to purchase this type of equipment for use in both of our major locations for all DoD personnel.

## CONCLUSION

U.S. Defense relations with Brazil cover an array of military assistance programs, from Foreign Military Sales and Direct Commercial Sales through International Military Education and Training and a variety of specialized training activities. The U.S. Military Liaison Office is heavily involved in these programs and looks forward to continuing a strong and mutually satisfying defense relationship with Brazil.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Ms. Jeanne Pinion, Administrative and Budget Officer, is a former businesswoman and is a lieutenant in the USN reserve. Major George Spoth, USAF Section Chief, is a logistics expert whose college major was Portuguese. LCDR Holly Nye, USN Section Chief, is a boat driver who once lived in Brazil. LTC Stephen Stacey, USA Section Chief, is a tanker with Desert Storm experience and a former West Point Portuguese language instructor. COL "Mac" McMahan is a fighter pilot who has memories of language training and would be totally lost without the above listed four professionals and the MLO's highly skilled supporting staffs.